

REMARKS

Claims 29, 30, 32 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alfano, et al. (5,293,872) in view of Lewis, et al., and Ito or Nagasaki, et al. Claims 36 and 38 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alfano, et al. (5,293,872) in view of Lewis, et al., and Ito or Nagasaki, et al. and further in view of Janes, et al.

Applicants' respectfully traverse the position set forth in the Office Action.

The Alfano reference ('872) is cited for disclosing the "basic teaching of using a Raman endoscope as a diagnostic tool." Alfano also discloses the use of fluorescence detection. However, the detector devices used by Alfano are not located on the distal end of the endoscope, but are coupled to the endoscope using an interferometer (31, 65) that is not suitable for placement at the distal end of an endoscope or are clearly not imaging devices (Fig. 8). There is no teaching in Alfano of an imaging device suitable for placement at a distal end of an endoscope that provides fluorescence or Raman data. Lewis relates to a microscope system and also fails to teach or suggest that an

imaging sensor can be sized with a filter to fit at the distal end of an endoscope.

The Ito and Nagasaki references are relied upon for disclosing the use of imaging devices positioned at the distal end of the endoscope. However these do not teach how to incorporate the retrieval of Raman or fluorescence data from an imaging device positioned at the distal end of an endoscope without the use of an interferometer, optical grating, monochromator, etc. that is not suitable for such use. One of ordinary skill in the art could not decipher from these references a suitable solution to this problem. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims. New claims 39-42 have been added.

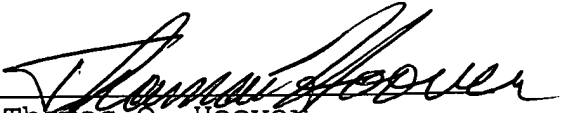
In view of the amendment and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition of allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue.

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If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 542-2290.

Respectfully submitted,

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